

Promise Updates

01/29/2010

This is the second installment of Promise Updates, a monthly summary of information, research, and news coverage dealing with the Kalamazoo Promise or one of the many other related reforms across the country. If you have suggestions about items to add to the list or ideas about how we can improve this service, you can e-mail us at Promiseupdates@gmail.com. The current Promise Updates covers a selection of items from December 2009 and January 2010. An archive of the Promise Updates is available on our K Promise Evaluation website:

<http://www.wmich.edu/kpromise>

KALAMAZOO PROMISE

KALAMAZOO PROMISE HAS FIRST GRADUATE 1/15/10

- Stacy Westhoff is the first to graduate using the money from the Promise.

<http://www.woodtv.com/dpp/news/education/Kalamazoo-Promise-has-first-graduate>

Related article:

<http://www.wvmt.com/articles/style-1371499-0in-promise.html>

STATE SCHOOL FINANCE HEARING HERE ON MONDAY 12/13/09

- State lawmakers conducted a finance meeting.
- Subcommittee met at three schools in the state to discuss the impact of cut, chose K-Central because of the Kalamazoo Promise.

<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-36/1260683454100420.xml&coll=7>

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS 12/11/09

- Facts about the Kalamazoo Promise.

<http://www.khurak.net/kalamazoo-public-schools-007283/>

OTHER PROMISE RELATED PROGRAMS

EL DORADO PROMISE (El Dorado, Arkansas)

New research study released on the El Dorado Promise

<http://www.eldoradopromise.com/downloads/>

CITY'S HOUSING MARKET ROBUST, REALTORS SAY 12/1/09

- Murphy Oil Cooperation, funding of college tuition scholarship through the El Dorado Promise boost realtor's confidence in growth of housing.

<http://www.docstoc.com/docs/18264689/Citys-housing-market-robust-realtors-say>

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RISES 1/24/10

- Unemployment in Arkansas is 7.7 as of December.
- Third Year of the El Dorado Promise, and authorities state that there is a four percent increase in enrollment, as well as an increase in the movement of families to the area.

<http://arkansasnews.com/2010/01/24/state-unemployment-rises/>

MAYOR TO KEEP FOCUS ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 1/24/10

- Question and answer session

<http://www.pjstar.com/news/x1685420722/Mayor-to-keep-focus-on-schools>

FAMILIES FLOCK TO EL DORADO SCHOOLS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS 1/23/10

- Murphy Oil states that "families from 31 different states and 13 foreign countries" have come to El Dorado since the Promise started.

<http://origin.todaysthv.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=98214&catid=2>

COMPANY'S TUITION PLEDGE BOOSTS COLLEGE ENROLLMENT 1/22/10

- In 2007 there were 60 percent of graduates who enrolled in college, however to date the percentage is now 79.

<http://www.rdmag.com/News/FeedsAP/2010/01/energy-companys-tuition-pledge-boosts-college-enrollment/>

Related Articles:

<http://www.kfsm.com/news/sns-ap-ar--eldoradopromise,0,6715906.story>

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2010/jan/22/murphy-oil-pledge-raises-college-going-third/>

<http://www.thecitywire.com/index.php?q=node/7927>

***For articles relating to the El Dorado Promise, subscribe to El Dorado News-Times Online**

<http://www.eldoradonews.com/RegisterNow.php>

GREAT RIVER PROMISE (Phillips County, AR)

**PCC'S GREAT RIVER PROMISE TO PROVIDE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS
1/22/10**

- Beginning with the class of 2010 the Great River Promise will be implemented by the Phillips Community College Foundation for graduates of a high school in Arkansas or Phillips County, public and private.

<http://www.dewitt-ee.com/articles/2010/01/27/news/doc4b6068e2f38cb241091013.txt>

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP (Jackson, MI)

ATTORNEY: COUNTY LACKING IN EDUCATION 12/8/09

- A little over 16 percent of those living in Jackson have bachelor's degrees
- Jackson Legacy Program scholarship helps with post-secondary education, as well as improves the community. Hope to have residents continue to live in Jackson.

<http://www.mlive.com/news/citpat/index.ssf?/base/news-29/1260284710290270.xml&coll=3>

**JACKSON COUNTY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ALMOST
HALFWAY TO \$5 MILLION FUNDRAISING GOAL 1/21/10**

- Up to date awarded \$200,000
- Awarded \$33,333 to this start this year.

<http://www.mlive.com/news/citpat/index.ssf?/base/news-29/126408631982340.xml&coll=3>

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP: A BIG INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY 1/3/10

- Jackson Community Foundation's Legacy Scholarship Program guarantees that money remains in Jackson.
- Thus far, 21,000 hours of community service was done by scholars utilizing the program.
- The program is in the middle of holding a capital campaign (\$5 million).

http://www.mlive.com/opinion/jackson/index.ssf/2010/01/legacy_scholarship_a_big_inves.html

PITTSBURGH PROMISE (Pittsburgh, PA)

JEWISH WOMEN'S GROUP HERE PLEDGES \$10,000 TO PROMISE 12/15/09

- \$10,000 to Pittsburgh Promise from National Council of Jewish Women

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09349/1021021-53.stm>

BNY MELLON MAKES \$500K GIFT TO PITTSBURGH PROMISE 12/22/09

- 3rd Largest donor thus far

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_658940.html

PITTSBURGH PROMISE RECEIVES \$500,000 GRANT FROM BNY MELLON 12/29/09

- Bank of New York Mellon supports promise by giving grant.

<http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/news/story.jhtml;jsessionid=0XXR4RHI0KNXNLAQBO4CGXD5AAAACI2F?id=279100004>

IUP SEEKING MORE BLACK STUDENTS FROM PITTSBURGH 1/21/10

- Pittsburgh Public Schools, with Indiana University of Pennsylvania, seek to increase the number of black students in the university.
- Heinz Endowments give \$160,000, called The Promise Plus.

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/206/2009/december/16/iup-seeking-more-black-students-from-pittsburgh.html

WITH ALL ITS PROMISE, AREA CAN BE PROUDER 1/17/10

- Approximately 1,500 students have obtained the scholarship since 2008.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10017/1028589-155.stm>

PITTSBURGH PROMISE OFFERING FAFSA, TAX HELP 1/6/10

- Free tax preparation and help filling out FAFSA
- Offered to families with income tax \$52,000 or lower that have children attending Pittsburgh Public Schools or city charter schools.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10006/1026074-298.stm>

Related article:

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_660872.html

STRIVE PROMISE (Cincinnati, OH)

LOW-INCOME STUDENTS TO GET COLLEGE AID 1/8/10

- Called the Strive Promise, the program will provide tuition, fees and books this fall 2010 for low-income graduates from Cincinnati, Covington, and Newport public schools.

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20100108/NEWS0102/1090318/Low-income+urban+students+to+get+college+aid>

PEORIA PROMISE (Peoria, IL)

MAYOR'S LONG DREAM ON HOPE, SHORT ON FUNDS 12/9/09

- Fully funded through 2010
- Currently supporting 222 students
- Goal: raise 1 million dollars each year, however as funding is slow the program is not doing well

<http://www.peoriatimesobserver.com/homepage/x491023800/Mayors-dream-long-on-hope-short-on-funds>

**MANY STUDENTS ATTEND ICC ON PEORIA PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS
12/29/09**

- List of all students 09-10

<http://www.pjstar.com/features/neighbors/x1444026614/Many-students-attend-ICC-on-Peoria-Promise-scholarships>

MUSKEGON OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM (Muskegon, MI)

**MUSKEGON OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM GETS NEW LEADER
12/27/09**

- Marissa Higgs started Jan. 4th
- Goal: prepare students for post-secondary education

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2009/12/muskegon_opportunity_education_1.html

WASHINGTON PROMISE (Washington State)

**WASHINGTON PROMISES COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOW-INCOME
H.S. GRADS 12/23/09**

- Washington state makes promise of four year college scholarship to low income 7th and 8th graders, foster children, and welfare kids.
- Guaranteed under circumstances of “staying out of trouble”.
- 43,000 thousand signed up thus far.

<http://news.opb.org/article/6433-washington-promises-college-scholarships-low-income-hs-grads/>

WEST VIRGINIA PROMISE (State of West Virginia)

BILL WOULD TURN PROMISE INTO LOAN 1/19/10

- The bill would require Promise graduates who moved out of West Virginia to work to pay back the money the state government gave them as a low-interest student loan.

<http://www.dailymail.com/News/statehouse/201001180526>

MICHIGAN PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP (State of Michigan)

**COLLEGE STUDENTS SCRAMBLE TO RECOUP LOST PROMISE AID
01/19/10**

- College students, graduating seniors and their families are facing a second year without the state's Promise Scholarships.
- The governor and legislature are fighting over whether they can restore the \$80.5 million program that covered 96,000 students.

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20100119/SCHOOLS/1190327/1001/College-students-scramble-to-recoup-lost-Promise-aid>

TWO COLLEGES TAKE A BIG HIT FROM CUT IN STUDENT AID 01/03/10

- The demise of the Michigan Promise scholarship drives thousands of college students deeper into debt.
- This year, total aid is being cut nearly in half for Davenport and more than 80 percent at Baker.

<http://dailyreporter.com/blog/2009/11/20/association-looks-for-better-ways-to-attract-development/>

GOVERNOR FIGHTING FOR HOLLOW PROMISE 11/29/09

- Governor Granholm urges lawmakers to restore money for the Michigan Promise scholarship.

http://www.mlive.com/opinion/jackson/index.ssf/2009/11/governor_fighting_for_hollow_p.html

RELATED NEWS (Flint, MI)

**MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES \$1 MILLION ANONYMOUS
DONATION 12/3/09**

- Donors originally were striving to replicate the Kalamazoo Promise (Flint Promise), however were not successful.
- Instead invested \$1 million dollars.

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2009/12/mott_community_college_receive.html